

## **“Semana Santa” (Holy Week) in Murcia**

“Semana Santa” in Murcia lasts a little more than a week, from “Viernes de Dolores” (the previous Friday to Good Friday) to “Domingo de Resurrección” (Easter Sunday).

It is commonly known for its many processions that take place each day of the celebration but the peculiarity is that “nazarenos” carry sweets and give them to the children. Although there many processions, the most important of all are: “Los Coloraos”, “Procesión del Silencia”, “Los Salzillos” and “Procesión del Demonio”.

- “Los Coloraos”: This one occurs in the area called “Barrio del Carmen”. Los coloraos is one of the most important because it is the oldest and it dates back to the fifteenth Century.
- Although it is not the oldest, the “Procesión del Silencio” is special in its own unique way. The procession is done under candle lights, all the streetlights are switched off during the event. Furthermore, it is done in complete silence and unlike all other processions, no sweets are given to the children present.
- Next “Los Salzillos”, that is significant because the sculptures used in the “pasos” (floats) were created by the most important religious Spanish sculptor: Francisco Salzillo.
- Finally “Procesión del Demonio” it marks the end of the “Semana Santa” and the beginning of “Fiestas de Primavera” (Spring Festival), the most colorful festival in Murcia when we dress up in traditional clothing (traje de huertano) to celebrate the “Bando de la Huerta” on Tuesday and the “Entierro de la Sardina” takes place (the following Saturday).

**Have you tasted “holy sweets”? Come to Murcia and enjoy them!**